

Table 5
Preventive Measures

- Maintain personal hygiene
- Try to assure adequate nutrition and hydration
- Evaluate and manage urinary and fecal incontinence
- Position to alleviate pressure over bony prominences and shearing forces over the heels and elbows, base of head, and ears.
- Try to reposition every two hours when in bed and every hour when in a chair; if alert and capable, the patient should be taught to shift his or her weight every 15 minutes while in a chair.
- Use appropriate positioning devices and foam padding; do not use donut-shaped devices.
- Try and avoid placing the patient on his or her trochanters or directly on the wound.
- Maintain the lowest head elevation possible.
- Use lifting devices such as draw sheets or a trapeze.
- Try to prevent contractures.
- Do not massage reddened areas over bony prominences.

Table 9
Examples of Mitigating Factors Related to a Facility's Efforts to Treat a Pressure Ulcer

Patient-Related

- Patient is not a good candidate for wound healing or has a terminal or end-stage condition.
- Patient cannot or will not cooperate with a significant part of the treatment plan.
- Patient has significantly comorbidities that are affecting the overall prognosis or the wound healing.
- Patient is currently medically unstable.
- Patient has had multiple episodes of acute illness, with or without hospitalization, in the past 6 months.
- Patient has evidence of undernutrition or weight loss upon admission to the facility, or after admission despite efforts to try to address it.
- Patient previously had a pressure ulcer in the same or a similar location.
- Patient has requested significant limitations in medical interventions, such as declining tube feeding despite weight loss or undernutrition.

Process-Related

- Provider has properly performed processes of assessment, problem identification, cause identification, management, monitoring, identification of complications, etc.
- Provider has appropriately tried to address each aspect of the wound.
- Documentation reflects performance of relevant processes and explains patient-related factors complicating treatment and wound healing.
- Staff follows related policies and performs procedures correctly.
- Facility has trained and educated staff in related knowledge and skills.
- Facility periodically oversees actual task performance by staff.
- Facility addresses inadequate or inappropriate task performance.